

Marine and Freshwater Habitat Protection

Puget Sound Management Plan Goals

- To preserve, restore and enhance the ecological processes that create and maintain marine and freshwater habitats and to achieve a net gain in ecological function and area of those habitats within the Puget Sound basin.

Strategies for Achieving the Goals

- Develop comprehensive local programs to protect marine and freshwater habitats that include planning, stewardship, education and regulation.
- Improve regulatory program practices and scientific knowledge of marine and freshwater habitats.
- Educate the public.
- Create and maintain an accurate accounting of habitat gains and losses as a result of permitting actions.
- Preserve remaining natural marine and freshwater habitats.
- Measure progress through performance measures and adjust programs as needed.
- Pursue funding for implementation of the management plan and related activities from all available federal, state and local government and private sources.

Background and Trends

More than 175 species of fish and wildlife feed and breed in wetlands. At least one-third of Washington's threatened and endangered species require healthy wetlands for survival. Since the arrival of settlers in the Puget Sound basin, 70 percent of tidally influenced wetlands have been lost, largely due to urbanization, port development, industrial use, dredging and filling.

The declining condition of Puget Sound's habitat is reflected in the listing of two species of salmon in Puget Sound as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Several other marine species are experiencing declining populations. Human activities and non-native plants continue to degrade wetlands along the Sound's shoreline and rivers.

Local regulations for shoreline development are outdated. They do not adequately protect nearshore habitat nor address the cumulative effects of shoreline development.

Highlights of 2001-2003 Actions

- The Department of Fish and Wildlife will develop and implement three to four marine protected areas (MPAs) or marine sanctuaries in partnership with local jurisdictions and tribes
- Ecology will facilitate restoration of degraded wetlands by implementing a watershed-based program to restore wetlands.
- The Washington State Department of Transportation will implement watershed-based strategies for environmental mitigation,

flood management and compliance with environmental permits.

- The Action Team support staff will coordinate and provide technical assistance on habitat restoration and protection to the Northwest Straits Commission, associated Marine Resource Committees and other local groups.
- The University of Washington will provide technical assistance, education and information for groups working to protect and restore salmonids and shellfish habitat.

2001-2003 Budget Reductions

- Fish and Wildlife: A \$235,600 reduction eliminated wetlands technical assistance for local governments.

2001-2003 Budget for State Actions

Reduction	(\$235,600)
Total Provisoed Funding	\$2,645,504
Non-provisoed Funding	\$18,000,000

		See page 9 for key.					
JOINT STATE AND FEDERAL ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	Pri-ori-ty	Non-point	Sal-mon	Budget Code	PS Plan Element	Action ID
<p>Provide funding to local governments to support updates to local critical areas ordinances. The Action Team support staff will help publicize the availability of and encourage the use of these funds to better protect habitat and shellfish. The Action Team support staff will also provide technical assistance to help local governments incorporate "best available science" into their critical areas ordinances.</p>							
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT							
	Local critical areas ordinances will be revised and improved.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	OCD-02	MFH-2	15
PUGET SOUND WATER QUALITY ACTION TEAM							
	Local critical areas ordinances will be revised and improved.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSAT-03	MFH-2	15

		See page 9 for key.					
STATE AGENCY ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	Pri-ori-ty	Non-point	Sal-mon	Budget Code	PS Plan Element	Action ID
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE							
Provide technical assistance to local jurisdictions on water quality, marine development and stormwater management.	Local governments will receive help on the following issues: assistance with Hydraulic Project Approvals; training on the Stream Bank Protection Guidance Manual; early identification of Fish and Wildlife concerns about proposals for major marine projects; protection of water and sediment quality and habitat issues related to aquatic toxicants and pesticides; and implementation of watershed plans developed under Chapter 400-12 WAC (the Nonpoint Rule).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DFW-03	MFH-0	18
Provide locally based technical assistance on water quality and habitat. Support consideration of fish and wildlife needs in local planning processes and actions. Assist the development and implementation of watershed plans (including the Chapter 400-12 WAC plans), growth management ordinances, shoreline master programs, and related salmon recovery activities and projects.	Coordination between Fish and Wildlife and local planning staffs and action groups will be improved. Fish and Wildlife staff will participate in local meetings, hearings and actions and support implementation of local watershed plans. Regional support activities will be better coordinated with local and Soundwide actions (stormwater, water quality, wetlands, fish passage). Technical support will be provided for salmon recovery planning.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DFW-05	MFH-2	20
Develop and implement three to four marine protected areas (MPAs) or marine sanctuaries. Evaluate potential sites and criteria for regional management plans and provide evaluation to determine success. Provide public outreach and develop partnerships with local jurisdictions, tribes and others to establish and manage these sites at the local level.	Local marine protected areas and regional management plans will be developed. Public understanding and support for marine protected areas, the educational and non-consumptive use opportunities they provide and opportunities to rebuild marine stocks will be enhanced. Local involvement, ownership and direct actions toward rebuilding and protecting depressed marine fish stocks will be facilitated.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DFW-07	MFH-8	21
Develop technical guidelines for marine and stream corridor habitat protection and restoration, and integrate with related standards and rules at other levels of government. Implement technical outreach and training. Subjects covered include marine shoreline modification and restoration, estuary restoration, marine overwater structures, aquaculture, aquatic weeds management, conduit crossings and outfalls, etc. (Budget enhancement requested.)	Technical guidelines for marine and stream corridor habitat protection and restoration will be developed. A program for training and outreach will be initiated to provide technical assistance to local, state and federal regulatory agencies, engineers and project designers, volunteer habitat restoration groups, and other members of the public. Salmon recovery will be enhanced, and federal review under the ESA will be streamlined for projects using the guidelines.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DFW-10	MFH-7	22
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES							
Continue site visits by regional personnel and volunteers to Daily Prairie, Kings Lake Bog, Snoqualmie Bog and Bald Hills Lake. Increase the level of hydrologic monitoring at these sites and assess wetland functions (using Ecology's Wetlands Functions and Values Assessment Protocol).	Wetland sites in the Puget Sound trough will be protected.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DNR-02	MFH-4.1	23

		See page 9 for key.					
STATE AGENCY ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	Pri-ori-ty	Non-point	Sal-mon	Budget Code	PS Plan Element	Action ID
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY							
Assist local governments in updating their shoreline master programs. Provide technical assistance guidance materials, training opportunities and one-on-one support to communities updating their shoreline master programs. Review and approve shoreline master programs as they are submitted to Ecology.	Technical assistance guidance materials, trainings and one-on-one support provided to communities will result in updated local Shoreline Master Programs. Shoreline Master Programs will be reviewed and approved as they are submitted to the agency.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DOE-08	MFH-2	24
Facilitate the restoration of degraded wetlands by implementing a watershed-based program to restore wetlands. Complete and implement the program in the Snohomish Basin. Begin implementing the program in the Skagit and Dungeness Basins (tentatively). Continue to maximize restoration in the Stillaguamish, Nooksack and Snohomish basins. Continue to assist local governments in the planning and implementation of restoration and monitoring projects, including Spencer Island, Drainage District 6, Quuloolt Project (Snohomish), and McElroy Slough (Skagit).	A database of wetlands restoration sites will be developed for the Skagit and Dungeness basins. Wetlands in the Stillaguamish, Nooksack and Snohomish basins and elsewhere will be restored.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DOE-08	MFH-2	25
Facilitate better stewardship of wetlands by developing and updating technical assistance materials and providing specialized technical assistance to local governments on non-regulatory protection of wetlands. Provide assistance on the use of stewardship tools to protect salmon. Administer grants and participate in site-specific preservation/restoration activities.	Local governments will be more aware of stewardship tools to protect wetlands. Local preservation programs will be designed to more effectively address watershed problems. Key wetland sites will be preserved.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DOE-08	MFH-2	26
Assist local governments in planning and administering wetlands protection programs.	Local government actions to protect and restore wetlands will be improved.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DOE-08	MFH-2	27
WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION							
Monitor wetland sites that were developed to mitigate the impacts of transportation projects.	Monitoring data will be used to ensure permit compliance. Monitoring results will be incorporated into the design and implementation of new wetland mitigation projects to improve site performance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DOT-03	MFH-4	29
Implement watershed-based strategies for environmental mitigation, flood management and compliance with environmental permits. Provide support for the department's alternative mitigation actions; support the use of the Advance Environmental Mitigation Revolving Account.	Partnerships with local interest groups will be established to integrate the department's mitigation needs into watershed recovery strategies. Strategies and guidance to reduce flood hazards and provide emergency response to floods will be developed to guide the department's protection of salmon. The Advance Environmental Mitigation Revolving Account will be fully capitalized at \$10 Million.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DOT-04	MFH-2	30

STATE AGENCY ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	See page 9 for key.					
		Pri-ori-ty	Non-point	Sal-mon	Budget Code	PS Plan Element	Action ID

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Support administration of and standardized design for the department's barrier removal projects and grant programs. Participate on the Interagency Review Team for Salmon Restoration. Implement projects to remove barriers to fish passage identified in an existing inventory prepared by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Accelerate implementation of barrier removal projects.	Salmon recovery will be helped by removing barriers to fish passage associated with state roads. A statewide database will be developed to track barriers to fish passage. Technical assistance on fish passage projects will be provided to local entities and department regions. The department will be involved in the development of critical path methodologies required by Chapter 246, Laws of 1998 (the Salmon Recovery Act).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DOT-04	MFH-7	31
Provide technical support for project coordination and recovery planning. Coordinate with the department's regions, ferries, rail, TransAid, Operations and Design, and the Environmental Affairs Office to address project delivery in response to proposed listings under the Endangered Species Act. Develop a pilot mapping and field identification system for roadside areas that contain threatened and endangered salmon, animals and plants; sensitive groundwater recharge areas; public water supplies; and other sensitive areas.	Projects and activities that could affect listed salmon will be identified and evaluated. With stakeholder input, standard measures will be developed to avoid or minimize impacts. Acceptance of ESA compliance strategies will be negotiated with state and federal agencies. Department employees will be trained about ESA issues, responsibilities and procedures. Participation in forums for recovery planning and regulatory changes will take place.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DOT-04	MFH-7	32

OFFICE OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Provide technical assistance to protect wetlands and aquatic habitat and minimize runoff and flooding for local governments planning under the Growth Management Act.	Information on land-use practices that affect habitat, water quality, drainage and flooding will be provided to local governments to help them complete or amend local plans and regulations. Model ordinances will be developed to assist local governments with their efforts.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OCD-01	MFH-2	33
Track final local government adoption of critical areas policies and development regulations that reflect the best available science.	An Access database will be developed and reported on the OCD website to reflect final adopted critical areas regulations and policies.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	OCD-01	MFH-9	34
Develop a source list of scientific references to assist cities and counties, including the best available scientific information in developing policies and development regulations to protect the functions and values of critical areas (wetlands, fish and wildlife conservation areas, frequently flooded areas, aquifer recharge areas, and geologically unstable areas). The source list of science will be developed in coordination with state natural resource agencies, including the Action Team.	Source lists of the best available science for critical areas will be developed. The Action Team will be invited to participate in identifying scientific sources of information relevant to nearshore and salmon habitat and shellfish areas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	OCD-01	MFH-5	35

		See page 9 for key.					
STATE AGENCY ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	Pri-ori-ty	Non-point	Sal-mon	Budget Code	PS Plan Element	Action ID
PUGET SOUND WATER QUALITY ACTION TEAM							
Coordinate and provide technical assistance on habitat restoration and protection to the Northwest Straits Commission, associated Marine Resource Committees (MRCs) and other local planning groups. Advise MRC members on Puget Sound water quality issues, the "Puget Sound Water Quality Management Plan" and work plan, salmon and bottomfish recovery plans, and education and outreach to local communities. Promote the use of soft shoreline stabilization techniques and assist with mapping of important nearshore habitats.	Ecosystem processes that maintain habitat and rebuild marine fish stocks will be protected and restored.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PSAT-04	MFH-8	36
Coordinate the development of a strategy for conducting local habitat inventories.	Local governments will have access to the best available science on which to base resource management decisions.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PSAT-04	MFH-4	37
Coordinate the activities of the nearshore habitat loss work group.	Measures to reduce the loss of nearshore habitat will be improved.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PSAT-04	MFH-2	38
The Action Team support staff will work with Fish and Wildlife, DNR, State Parks, tribal governments and non-governmental organizations to: develop criteria and standards for marine protected areas; coordinate research efforts relevant to marine protected areas; identify gaps in marine protection Soundwide; and designate marine protected areas.	Coordination of efforts to identify and designate marine protected areas will be improved.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PSAT-04	MFH-8	39

		See page 9 for key.				
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIONS	OUTCOMES	Pri-ori-ty	Non-point	Sal-mon	PS Plan Element	Action ID

SOUNDWIDE

THE PUGET SOUND ACTION TEAM RECOMMENDS THAT:

<p>All local jurisdictions should continue to protect wetlands and other aquatic habitats through comprehensive land-use planning, preservation, restoration, regulation, education, and program evaluation. Local comprehensive plans should be designed to protect wetlands and marine nearshore habitat.</p> <p>Local development regulations should comply with applicable state and federal statutes and rules regulating wetlands and contain the following basic elements consistent with the Department of Ecology's model ordinance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Goal of "no net loss" of wetland acreage and function * Wetland classification scheme * Wetland buffers and setbacks * Requirement for compensatory mitigation, with specified replacement ratios. <p>Local jurisdictions should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Provide incentives for landowners to protect wetlands, stream corridors and marine nearshore habitats. * Update and re-adopt local shoreline master programs consistent with new standards being developed by Ecology in the Shoreline Master Program Guidelines rule. * Maintain and improve wetland inventories and stream classifications to recognize the functions and values of these areas and protect them from incompatible activities. * Incorporate wetland protection programs into Endangered Species Act responses and salmon recovery programs. <p>Conservation districts should continue to help landowners protect and restore wetlands and other aquatic habitats, particularly where those efforts increase or restore access to critical habitats for fish.</p>	<p>There should be a gain in ecological function and area of marine and freshwater habitats in the Puget Sound basin.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MFH-1	40
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